

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

June 6, 2012

Reward for Information in Locating Suspect in Fatal Hit and Run near Ritter Elementary School in Willowbrook

On Friday, April 20, 2012, at approximately 5:50 p.m., 7-year old Angelica Aerola and her father, 38-year old Jose Aerola entered the crosswalk at Santa Ana Boulevard and Watts Avenue, located in unincorporated Willowbrook. Angelica and her father entered the crosswalk at the intersection after a vehicle stopped to allow them to pass. Upon entering the intersection, a pearl-white Cadillac Escalade pulled out from behind the stopped vehicle and failed to yield to Angelica Aerola and Jose Aerola who were within a crosswalk. The Cadillac Escalade struck both pedestrians resulting in the death of Jose Aerola and leaving his daughter in critical condition.

After striking the victims, the suspect fled and drove westbound on Santa Ana Boulevard. The suspect is described as a heavy set Hispanic male, short hair, goatee, and approximately late 20's to early 30's years of age. At the time of the incident he was wearing a white t-shirt. The Cadillac Escalade is described as a 2000-2006 model with

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MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

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large (22"-24") chrome wheels. It is believed to have sustained moderate damage to its front-end, including: a damaged hood, front grille, and possibly right front bumper.

Before he was struck and killed, Jose Aerola was attempting to pull his daughter out of the way of the oncoming vehicle. Angelica Aerola was a first grader at Ritter Elementary School and had participated in an afterschool activity. The shock and senselessness of this tragedy has left the Aerola family and the Ritter Elementary School community devastated.

California Highway Patrol (CHP) investigators believe there are witnesses in the neighborhood that may have seen the suspect leave the area. Auto body repair shops or any resident with information about this heinous crime are urged to contact the CHP's South Los Angeles Office. No inquiries will be made about any witnesses' immigration status. Investigators further believe that a reward offer would be helpful in solving this heinous crime, thus bringing some sense of closure and justice to Jose and Angelica Aerola's family and friends.

I THEREFORE MOVE, THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Establish the offer of a reward in the amount of \$10,000 in exchange for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the death of 38-year old Jose Aerola and the critical injuries sustained by 7-year old Angelica Aerola, who were struck as they entered a crosswalk at the intersection of Santa Ana Boulevard and Watts Avenue on Friday, April 20, 2012 in unincorporated Willowbrook.

Contact: Officer Edward McElroy
 California Highway Patrol

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South Los Angeles Office
(310) 516-3355 or
(323) 259-2010

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